

日本語教室

Japanese Class

September 11, 18, 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November 6, 13

Tuesday 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

Fee: 3,000 yen for 10 classes

Class will be held at the Misawa International Center!

Contact: Miyuki Atkinson

Misawa International Association

Phone: 0176-51-1349

E-mail: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

International Friendship Group

1st Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: starting from 7:00 p.m.

* Pot luck party will be held on November 7, Wednesday.

For more information
please contact the Misawa International Association by:

phone: 0176-51-1349 fax: 0176-51-1211

email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp



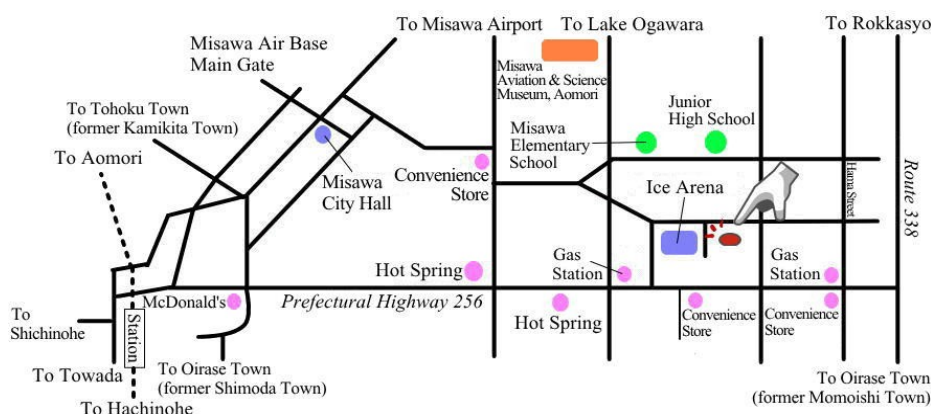
Misawa International Center

TEL:0176-51-1255 FAX:0176-51-1211 Email:kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

Address: 230-1 Aza-Sonosawa, Oaza-Misawa, Misawa City 033-0022

Thank you for reading MISAWA CITY NEWS!

Misawa City International Relations publishes the monthly free paper, "Misawa City News". We keep you informed of what is happening in Misawa. We are also working on adding an "English Version" to the Misawa City websites. We appreciate your feedback!



Misawa City News

September, 2012



By the Middle of September, you may feel autumn approaching as the trees change their leaves to various shades of red and yellow. People head to the mountains, to embark on a popular autumn event— *momijigari*, or "to hunt for colored leaves" — also known as a fall foliage tour. *Momijigari* is derived from *momiji*, which is another name for *kaeda*—the Japanese maple tree.

On a *momijigari* trip, people become leaf peepers, as they hike the mountains, valleys, gorges, and lakesides— anywhere with deciduous trees—and enjoy a bento surrounded by fall's beauty, before ending the day at a local *onsen* or public spa. In Japan, there are many *onsen*, as the country sits atop a volcanic belt. For the Japanese, the *onsen* is the best way to relax and soothe tired muscles. The *onsen* is also therapeutic, because the waters contain many minerals which are good for not only beautifying one's skin but also relieving rheumatism, arthritis, and other various atopic skin conditions. Enjoy a *momijigari* trip before winter comes!

Mountains and Hot Springs!

Shirakami Sanchi and Anmon no Taki

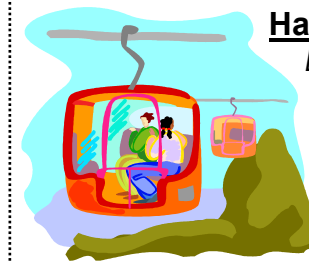
Location: Nishimeya Mura (village)

This is the World Heritage Site has many beautiful hiking routes, from 1hr ("Beech Forest Stroll") to 4 hrs ("Nature Watch Path Hike"). Be sure to stop at Visitor Center to learn about the tourist site as well as other hikes such as the "Anmon no Taki Waterfall Hike".

Lake Towada and Oirase Gorge

Location: The border of Aomori and Akita prefectures

The lake is the largest crater lake on mainland Japan, with a depth of 1,073 ft. and lying 1,800 ft above sea level. There are 3 observation decks around the lake: Kankodai, Hakkatouge, and Ohanabe-yama. From these vantage points, one can see that the lake is surrounded by mountains. Nearby, Oirase Gorge gently descends from the lake, to the Konoguchi Rest House. The gorge offers many views, as gently winds through a grove of trees and 13 waterfalls.



Hakkoda Mountains

Location: South of Aomori City

The Hakkodas are a range of a dozen volcanic mountains. The highest peak is Mt. Odake. There are many ways to enjoy the Hakkodas: a gondola ropeway trip based in Towada-Hachimantai National Park; a nature hiking trail beginning at the Summit Park Station; or a 4-hour hike from Sukayu Onsen. All of these routes offer beautiful views of the marshes and alpine vegetation.

Tsuta Onsen (Hot spring)

Location: Towada City

This onsen hotel resort (*ryokan*) opened in 1909, built in an ancient forest with tall beech trees. The *ryokan*'s atmosphere makes you feel as though you have slipped back in time, to the Meiji Era. The bathhouse is built of Aomori Hiba wood, and the tubs, of beech wood. Both woods add to the water and create a very relaxing atmosphere.

Furo-fushi Onsen (Hot spring)

Location: Fukaura Town

This is the most popular outside onsen in the Tohoku (Northern Japan) region. This onsen goes up to the Sea of Japan. As you sit in the baths, you can overlook the ocean as well as listen to the soothing sounds of the waves. This is the best way to enjoy a Japanese sunset!

Sukayu Onsen (Hot spring)

Location: Aomori City

This onsen was designated as the first "Onsen for Health" in Japan, in 1954. The *Sen-nin-buro* (1,000-person Bath) is the largest wooden tub in Japan and is open to mixed-gender bathing. The bathing atmosphere reminds this author of the onsen scene, from the famous Japanese anime, "Spirited Away", by director Hayao Miyao (of Studio Ghibli Animation Studios).



Aomori Prefectural Cultural Festival

From September 1, Saturday, to November 11, Sunday
With an Opening Ceremony on September 23, Sunday
See below for times. All events are held at the Misawa Civic Center.

Performance	Date & Time	Admission
The 21st Tohoku Taiko Festival	Sep 17, Mon, beginning at 13:00 *see below for more details.*	¥2000 in advance. ¥2500 at the door.
Ikebana Floral Exhibit	Sep 23, Sun, 10:00-16:30	Free
Tea Ceremony	Sep 23, Sun, 10:00-15:30	Free
Classical Japanese Dance	Sep 30, Sun, 10:00-16:00	¥2000
Brass Band Concert	Oct 7, Sun, 12:00 - 17:00	¥800
Chorus Festival	Oct 21, Sun, 13:00 - 16:00	Free
Ginkenshibudou Festival (Japanese Culture)	Oct 21, Sun, 10:30- 15:30	Free
Yōbu Festival (Western Dance Show)	Nov 4, Sun 13:00 - 16:00	Free



The 21st Tohoku Taiko Festival

September 17, Monday, at 13:00
Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
At the Misawa Civic Center
Admission: ¥2,000 in advance and ¥2,500 at the door
Tickets are available at Misawa Civic Center

On March 11, the Tohoku region was adversely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in several ways. Many people were forced to move and continue to live in temporary housing today. The economy was negatively impacted and many local areas have not recovered to pre-earthquake levels.

Therefore, the Tohoku Taiko Liaison Council—composed by the Taiko Union in the 6 prefectures (Akita, Aomori, Fukushima, Iwate, Miyagi, and Yamagata) of the Tohoku region—is hosting this year’s festival as a “Regenerating Event”, to inspire many people and revitalize many local activities. Come out and show your support! The Taiko drum teams from the 6 prefectures of Tohoku are coming!

Pleasant Memories...



Wenatchee Valley Delegation 2012

On August 22, Wednesday, the Wenatchee Valley Good will Delegation arrived in Misawa. They were led its president, Mr. Tim Detering (also an East Wenatchee Council member) and Mr. David Kelts, president of the Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association. The delegation was greeted by welcome ceremony, where they met their Misawa host families. At the welcome banquet on the same day, the Delegation sang “SUKIYAKI” (aka *Ue o Muite Arukō*), beautifully.

On another day, the delegation visited a local junior high school and got to try *Kendo* (Japanese sword fighting), with practice bamboo swords, with the local students. The delegation also visited the Misawa Fishing Port and were surprised to learn about the sea level reaching 7.5m (approx 24.6 ft) during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami last March 11, 2011. The group moved on to lighter things, learning about Japanese Culture at the Misawa International Center. There, the delegation tried their hand at many things: making sushi, participating in a tea Ceremony, Japanese folk songs and dancing, calligraphy, and wearing *Yukata* (Summer Kimono). The *yukata* was a favorite event for everyone.



Misawa City Mayor Taneichi hosted a garden party with a Japanese-style barbeque, featuring various seafood, meat and vegetables. The guests also got to try pounding *Mochi*—the traditional way to make Japanese rice cakes.

Even though the Float Parade of the Misawa Summer Festival on Aug 24 (Friday), was cancelled due to rain, the delegation still had a great time the next day, at the Parade. During the latter parade, the delegates wore lovely smiles as they waved to everyone. They were received with loud cheers by the Misawans.

The Goodwill Visit came to an end on August 26, Sunday, when the delegation flew out. However, they left their sister city with many unforgettable and great memories!!!

